

# TO THE ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN.

TOWNSHIP OF NIAGARA, October 7, 1840.

GENTLEMEN—It would be superfluous for me to attempt to prove that this Province has been and continues to be misgoverned;—it would be like stating that the radiant beams of the noonday sun illuminate Creation; the fact is too obvious, to admit of the slightest uncertainty; too clear to need demonstration, too true to require the support of evidence. The effects are too apparent, too startling, too frightful to be misconstrued, and the individual who doubts or denies their existence, must be wilfully blind, entirely destitute of common sense, or totally devoid of every manly principle. To whatever side we turn us, the truth stares in the face, with an awful conviction of its authenticity; it forces itself upon us, in whatever situation of life we are placed, with an irresistible impression of its validity; if we visit the farmer at his toil—the mechanic at his workshop—the merchant in his counting-room, or the poor man at his daily labour; if we survey the glittering array of the rich man, as he passes by our humble dwellings, in haughty splendour, or catch a glimpse of the monopolists train as he traverses our District, with his livid attendants; if we pause, for a moment, to look at the numerous Battalions of hired soldiery, that crowd our towns, and villages, and gaze upon each concealed poppinjay that controls them, as he struts lightly by us, as we pass “between the wind and his nobility;” if we ventured to behold the bands of greedy officials, that prey upon our substance, or endeavour to calculate the enormous sums of money annually extracted from our purses, to uphold the despotism that has alienated us from our country, through the Canadas, and view the desolation existing therein—public works neglected and decaying—business retrograding—private enterprise checked—confidence entirely lost—labourers vainly seeking employment—the unfortunate victims of the *Rolph mania*, fleeing as from a “land of pestilence and famine,” or lying shelterless and half starved about our otherwise deserted wharves and dock-yards—capitalists unable to realise the profits of their investment—moneyless agriculturists—failing tradesmen—disponding hopes—drooping prospects—a dissatisfied population, despairing of succour or redress—a heartless mob of tyrants, monopolising every situation of emolument and power—a hungry train of sycophants and expectants, prepared to renew with freshened vigour their attacks upon an already spoiled people; if we examine into the cause of the misery, ruin and discord, which deaden the energies of this, should-be flourishing country, and bow down the spirit of its inhabitants. These are the spotless which present themselves to our vision, and stamp with the seal of irresistible conviction, the undeniable fact, that we are misgoverned—shamefully—wickedly misgoverned; the all important question then presents itself. How is our situation to be bettered? The Tory would reply, destroy the freedom of the Press—eradicate every principle of liberty—put a muzzle upon every freeman’s mouth—suffer not the candidate (that is, in their vocabulary, the industrious class,) to have a voice in legislation—quash Responsibility, and give us power to mete out justice as seemeth us right. Thus rave the parasitical crew of leeches, that at present drain the coffers of the Canadians, whilst the sapping and mining, or “moderate” gang of speculators, who wish to seize the reins of power, harp in the following terms:—“Extremes are always

dangerous—moderate measures are best calculated to promote prosperity: the people should be willing to conciliate, and leave matters to be arranged by the Governor General, he is better qualified to judge of their wants than they are themselves, and he is disposed to do them justice.” They forget to add—*we know we lie*—Sir FRANCIS HEAD made as many promises as Lord SYDENHAM has ever done—we have been deceived a thousand times by similar professions—no man has a right to tamper with our elective franchise; the Governor General has already exhibited symptoms of a desire to do so.”—Yes, Freeholders, he has been rifling about our District, in company with pretended Reformers, endeavoring to intoxicate us with the “serenity of his temper, the plainness of his manners, and the simplicity of his deportment;” he has advised us, in answer to an Address got up to “gull him,” by some sycophants about St. Catharines, to “send men to the Legislature that will second him,” and intimated, that unless we do so, he will cast us off. Whilst he was amongst us, he confined himself to the society of the miserable automatons whom he intended to “sham-poon.” Did he visit a single intelligent farmer in the County? Did he enquire into the cause of the backward state of our “internal improvements,” from one man in whom the people had confidence? Did he go amongst the people themselves, and familiarly converse with them, upon the subject of their complaints and grievances? Answer, ye venal suicides! ye craven-spirited menials! who danced attendance upon himself and his waiters, and who, through one District, as though it were a high honor to be permitted to stoop down, and unbuckle his shoe-latchet. Did he perform a solitary act, or give utterance to one plain word to show, that he was sincerely desirous of complying with popular demand? No; on the contrary, are not the documents emanating from him, both of a public and private character, shrouded in that mysterious, shuffling, and deceptive “hotch-potch,” for which the emissaries of Downing-street have been always celebrated!—they are more like the effusions of a practised gamester, than the manly, independent, and straightforward production of an enlightened statesman, desirous of paying a “due deference to the well understood wishes of the people,” and are, in my humble opinion, purposely intended by their author, to mislead and draw, what my Lord SYDENHAM imagines to be, ignorant Canadians, into a net, in which, if they once become entangled, they will find some difficulty to extricate themselves from, and to crown his electioneering tour, he calls upon a *bed-ridden non-entity*, who, in his best days, never extended beyond a barn-yard, or pig-stye, in order, forsooth, to gather information from him, respecting the political affairs of a Colony distracted and perplexed by questions, which even the most sagacious statesmen of Britain, declared almost beyond their comprehension. What unblushing impudence! what a farce upon enlightened society! and to see the *torpedo-stricken* animals fall down and worship him, one would almost imagine him an angel or a demi-god, sent down to soothe the afflictions, and alleviate the distress of poor human nature. But the Electors of Lincoln were not wont to be thus trifled with, and if my experience of your past conduct does not lend me into an over-estimation of your judgment, I am confident, that you will discover the snare laid for your cap-

ture, and escape the slough into which it is intended you should fall. The amount of the Governor General’s savings and doings are, in my opinion, included in three words, “I WANT TOOLS,” and he intends that the people of Canada shall provide them. Reformers, there is a sufficiency of such material, in the shape of Tories and “moderate men,” let others do as they please—for your part, be determined that you will be no party to the Governor’s wrong-doings. When he bestows any privileges or favors, it will then be time enough to thank and support him; in the mean time, adhere to your own principles—contend for your just rights, insist upon your old demands—be true to the cause of Freedom—claim your lost privileges—Continue in the good old way that you have always trod in—rest not satisfied until you obtain the management of your internal affairs—responsibility in the Legislative, and accountability in the Monetary concerns of the Colony—a sound system of general Education, and an equal and impartial administration of Executive patronage. In order to the attainment of these desirable objects, it is essentially requisite, that you should return to the united Legislature representatives that have passed through the fiery ordeal, and proven themselves to be consistent, staunch, and upright friends of equal rights—and this brings me to a re-examination of the claims of Mr. MERRITT to your support. “Mr. MERRITT was once a Tory,” admitted on all hands, “he is now a Radical,” not so readily conceded. What think you, Reformers, was the cause of his sudden conversion? What could have “transmogrified” a Tory, and not ultra, into the opposite extreme? What could have induced the Representative of a confessedly conservative constituency, all at once to become an ardent advocate of his opponents principles?—Wherein lies the secret to this great mystery? Mr. MERRITT and his friends will answer “Conviction;” but what think you, Electors? Did the £500 per annum, taken from him, by the “Family Compact,” and given to their Idol Brother, WILLIAM B. ROBINSON, have no influence in effecting the change? Do you suppose that Mr. Merritt would be a Radical, now, if he had been allowed to manage the Welland Canal funds, as he did, when Oliver Phelps was let slip, in consequence of the \$30,000 of bad debts, or when “Cousin Tom” did up some small jobs, so beneficially for the public service, or at the time of the creditable transactions of the “Port Colborne Mills Company?” Do you imagine that he possesses a different character now, to what he did, when Mr. Justice Hagerman complimented him, so handsomely, upon his management of public funds, or when the Chief of the Clan gave him the significant title of “Prince of Hamburgs?” Farmers, do you forget his motion to tax American flour and admit wheat duty free! it was for your benefit, to be sure! the good man had no selfish schemes to effect! oh no! there are no mills at St. Catharines owned by himself and the other members of the little “Compact,” where such wheat can be manufactured and transported to Montreal, as Canadian flour! Thus the munificent “Prince” argued—if the Americans are permitted to introduce their grain, free of duty, there will be a fair competition—the consequence will be, that Brother Oliver, and myself, cannot monopolise the business—we will be obliged to dispose of our property at the same prices; now, in order to prevent this, I must play a double game;

first, put an effectual stop to the American trade, by making it subject to heavy restrictions, & in the next place, allowing wheat in duty free, will give me an opportunity of purchasing at the cheapest markets and disposing of my flour, to the greatest advantage to myself; thus will I preserve my “immutable principle” from being sacrificed, and Canadian Farmers may eat their own grain, if they please; for my part, I will give them none of my custom, when I can do better than here, and this is the man that expects to be returned as the Representative of Lincoln! a man, who in order to accomplish his deceitful projects, turns from his early principles, and even goes so far, as not to scruple declaring, through his friends, “that in case Responsible Government is refused, he is prepared to meet the question of separation!” Reformers, watch him, take care that you do not give him a foothold amongst you; for so surely as he gains the slightest advantage, so surely will he sacrifice you at the shrine of an ambitious self interest. If you wish to obtain a complete knowledge of his public character, you have but to refer to his public acts, and if therein you do not find exhibited, the most perfidious and iniquitous series of evil doings ever carried on within the limits of a British Colony; then I am willing that my statements should be treated as base slanders, and held up to the world with scorn and contempt; but if after examination, they are found to be true, as I am confident they will be, then in what light stands those pseudo Reformers, who are resolved to support with their votes, and sanction with their influence, such flagrant outrages, as those perpetrated by Mr. MERRITT, upon the political rights of Canadians! Reformers, were you to return Mr. M., you would be in effect saying, “we heartily approve of his past conduct.” Are you prepared for that? you would be acknowledging that you were always wrong, and he was always right, for no sane man will pretend to deny that he has hitherto entertained opinions diametrically opposed to those which you possessed, and he declares that he thinks now as he ever has done. Return him and you will be condemning yourselves, and consigning your names and memories, to the execration of posterity! you will be confessing that you have been contentious brawlers, unable to understand, and unwilling to learn your common rights as men and Britons; and that you are prepared to support any individual, no matter what his principles, whom the political lottery of the day, or the prospects of a fat living, may tempt to bamboozle you! But, I cannot believe that you, who have so long and so nobly led the van of Canadian Reform, will now basely desert from the main body, and traitorously combine with a puling band of apostates, whose object is their own aggrandizement, and your consequent degradation and ruin! Such a course on your part would lead to your total discomfiture! You will not, assassin-like, destroy your own power for the purpose of furthering the interests, and effecting the plans of HAMILTON MERRITT, and his sordid, drivelling associates! If you do it yourselves, or permit others to do it for you, under the guise of friendship, you have yourselves to blame. You have been faithfully warned—your blood be on your own heads!

I am, gentlemen

Your obed’t serv’t,

EQUITAS.